

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF DARIEN, CONNECTICUT
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Meeting Held on March 20, 2006

On March 20, 2006, a regular meeting of the RTM Public Works Committee was held in Room 213 of the Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien. Nine out of twelve members were present. Present were:

Charles Andrew
David Bayne (Chairman)
John DeVita
Frank Kemp

Thomas Moore
John Price
Bruce Rae
Brian Rayhill

Absent were Elsie Berl, Mark Dailey, L.J. Galvin and Stephen Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 and David Bayne volunteered and was unanimously elected to serve as Clerk for the meeting with the assistance of Frank Kemp.

David Bayne advised the Committee about the March 25 meeting of the Board of Finance and town tour starting at the Public Works' Garage at 8:00 a.m. He also advised the Committee that the annual spring cleanup had been canceled due to the personnel cuts at the Public Works Department made last year. Finally, there was also a discussion of whether to hold a special meeting of the Committee on March 27 which the Committee agreed to do.

A discussion was then held concerning proposed dump fee increases which are currently being considered by the Board of Selectmen. The issue before the Committee was whether the Committee wanted to make a statement at the April 3, 2006 public hearing of the Board of Selectmen on the propose dump fee increases.

A discussion was held about the reasons for, and the merits of, the fee increases particularly with respect to the creation of a new “enhanced” residential dump permit at a cost of \$200 annually which all owners of trailers and pick-up trucks using the dump will be required to purchase. The Committee was generally concerned about the fairness of imposing different fee levels based on the type of vehicle driven to the dump without regard to the amount of waste actually being delivered. It was the sense of the Committee that fees should either be uniform for all users or based on actual usage, not merely potential usage created by one or two particular types of larger vehicles. Members also expressed concern that merely raising the fees for users with pick-up truck and trailers will not end or discourage the abuses of commercial dumpers using residential dump permits. Members of the Committee expressed the belief that there should instead be clearer rules on the use of residential permits and stronger enforcement of the rules to curb abuses.

Although no formal votes were taken, it was decided that the Chairman would prepare a draft statement expressing the Committee’s concerns for delivery to the Board of Selectmen at their public hearing. The statement will be circulated to the Committee and vote will be taken at the special meeting on March 27 about whether it should be delivered to the Selectmen.

A discussion was also held concerning Committee member Stephen Johnson’s suggestion that the Department of Public Works look into employing bar coding technology on dump stickers to assist in monitoring actual use and to prevent unauthorized access to the

dump. The Committee decided that the Chairman should forward Mr. Johnson's suggestion to the Director of Public Works for his consideration.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David F. Bayne
Chairman & Temporary Clerk
RTM Public Works Committee